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IDEA 0271

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25 MAY 1961

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** AFCIG-5  
Headquarters USAF

**ATTENTION:** Colonel Leo P. Geary

**SUBJECT:** KC-135 Support of U-2C

1. It is anticipated that the testing phase of the air refueling modification on U-2C aircraft #242 will be completed on or about 26 May 1961. The aircraft will then be returned to Detachment G. at Edwards Air Force Base, for operational use and pilot checkout in air refueling tactics.

2. Now that air refueling capabilities exist, it will be necessary to reach agreements on, and to make proper arrangements for, KC-135 tanker support. A tentative initial checkout program will require each pilot to receive nine hours of ground school, a familiarization ride in tanker aircraft observing an air refueling, and two air refueling sorties. This phase will require twelve sorties with maximum dry hook-ups and minimum fuel off-loads. It is desired that the checkout program be initiated as soon as the tanker support can be arranged. We will be ready to begin this training at anytime after 6 June 1961.

3. Night checkouts should require one each additional sortie per pilot. Currently it is proposed that this training be completed after the day checkout program and the techniques of rendezvous, forming schedules, etc., have been pretty well developed.

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4. Proficiency training in air refueling on a continuing basis is another phase which will shortly have to be resolved. Depending upon the acquisition of additional air refueling modifications to U-2 aircraft possessed, multiple receiver per tanker tactics should be acceptable thereby effecting tanker sortie economy. At present, however, individual sorties will be necessary.

5. Due to lack of electronic rendezvous equipment and other non standard techniques which will probably have to be employed, it would seem desirable to conduct all initial air refueling sorties with one tanker organization, preferably a unit as close to Edwards Air Force Base as possible to facilitate coordination between tanker/receiver units.

6. It is requested that this Headquarters be advised of date first air refueling sortie will be available, the number of sorties to be provided, and the unit with whom the Edwards Detachment should effect air refueling sortie coordination.

7. [REDACTED] will be the Headquarters contact for all matters pertaining to the air refueling training program.

FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PLANS)

BY:

JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.

DPD/SPB [REDACTED] ph (24 May 1961)

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